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EX-AIDE TO HAIG PLANS TO REVEAL SPY SECRETS IN EMBEZZLEMENT TRIAL
WEST PALM BEACH, FLA. (UPI) -- MAJ. GEN. RICHARD B. COLLINS HAS THREATENED TO EXPOSE CIA ACTIVITIES TO DEFEND HIMSELF AGAINST CHARGES HE EMBEZZLED SPY FUNDS WHILE WORKING AS A KEY AIDE TO GEN. ALEXANDER HAIG.

THE GOVERNMENT TRIED REPEATEDLY TO GET THE TRIAL HELD BEHIND CLOSED DOORS, BUT U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE JAMES C. PAINE DECIDED COLLINS WAS CONSTITUTIONALLY ENTITLED TO AN OPEN TRIAL.

JURY SELECTION WAS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN TODAY AT 9 A.M. EDT AND ADDITIONAL U.S. MARSHALS HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO SECURITY DUTIES AT THE FEDERAL COURTHOUSE.

COLLINS AND HIS LAWYERS SAY THEY WILL DIVULGE INFORMATION ABOUT SECRET U.S. CASH USED TO BANKROLL COVERT CIA OPERATIONS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND ELSEWHERE TO DEFEND THE 55-YEAR-OLD AIR FORCE GENERAL, WHO RETIRED TO FLORIDA IN 1981.

"THERE ARE SOME THINGS, SOME POSSIBLY DAMAGING, OR EMBARRASSING, THAT WE'D RATHER NOT HAVE COME OUT," SAID A HIGH-RANKING DEFENSE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL, WHO CALLED COLLINS' THREATS TO EXPOSE GOVERNMENT SECRETS "GRAYMAIL."

COLLINS, HOWEVER, INSISTS HE ONLY PLANS TO RELEASE INFORMATION RELEVANT TO CHARGES AGAINST HIM.

"THE ONLY THING I EVER WANTED TO TALK ABOUT WAS WHAT HAPPENED RELATING TO THE CHARGES AGAINST ME," HE SAID. "IT'S RIDICULOUS TO SAY I WANT TO REVEAL 30 YEARS WORTH OF SECRETS."

COLLINS, WHO WAS ONCE ASSIGNED TO MANAGE SPY MONEY IN EUROPE, IS ACCUSED OF CHANNELING ABOUT \$445,000 INTO HIS SWISS BANK ACCOUNTS AND KEEPING ABOUT \$19,000 IN INTEREST.

HE IS EXPECTED TO ARGUE THE MONEY CAME FROM BANK ACCOUNTS USED TO BRIBE FOREIGN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS DURING THE VIETNAM WAR SO THEY WOULD ALLOW AMERICAN MILITARY AIRCRAFT TO LAUNCH SPY MISSIONS FROM THEIR COUNTRIES INTO CHINA, NORTH VIETNAM AND NORTH KOREA.

IF CONVICTED ON ALL SIX COUNTS, HE COULD BE SENTENCED TO UP TO 60 YEARS IN PRISON AND FACE \$60,000 IN FINES.

COLLINS WAS DIRECTOR OF PLANS AND POLICIES AND SUPERVISED WAR PLANNING FOR ALL U.S. MILITARY SERVICES AS AN AIDE TO HAIG WHEN HAIG WAS SUPREME COMMANDER OF NATO FORCES IN EUROPE. HE ALSO CONDUCTED MILITARY NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND SEVERAL EUROPEAN NATIONS.